

App. No. 10/716,712

**Amendments to the claims**

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A desktop card printer for printing data onto cards, comprising:

an external communication link enabling communications with a device external to the card printer;

a controller within the printer in communication with the communication link;

a USB hub internal to said printer to enable the printer to communicate simultaneously with a plurality of devices internal and/or external to the printer;

at least one data writer in communication with the USB hub, the data writer configured to write data onto the cards; and

a plurality of data couplers connected to the data writer and the USB hub providing communications between the data writer and the USB hub.

11. (Original) A desktop card printer according to claim 10, wherein said USB hub is electronically integrated therein.

Claims 12-20 (canceled).

21. (Currently amended) A desktop card printer according to claim 10, wherein the data writer comprises a smart card contact and the data couplers comprise smart card data couplers, and; and further comprising a plurality of smart card couplers in communication with said USB hub and said contact, wherein a selected one of said couplers controls a data output of said contact, and said one of said couplers is selectable via said USB hub.

22. (New) A desktop card printer for printing data onto plastic cards, comprising:  
an external communication link enabling communications with a device external to the card printer;  
a controller within the printer in communication with the communication link;

App. No. 10/716,712

at least one data writer configured to write data onto the cards; and  
a plurality of data couplers connected to the data writer and the controller providing communications between the data writer and the controller.

23. (New) A desktop card printer according to claim 22, wherein the data writer comprises a smart card contact and the data couplers comprise smart card data couplers, and wherein a selected one of said couplers controls a data output of said contact, and said one of said couplers is selectable via said controller.

24. (New) A desktop card printer for printing data onto plastic cards, comprising:  
a plurality of external communication links enabling communications with a device external to the card printer;  
a controller within the printer in communication with at least one of the communication links;  
at least one data writer configured to write data onto the cards; and  
a plurality of data couplers connected to the data writer and a plurality of the external communication links providing communications between the data writer and the external device.

25. (New) A desktop card printer according to claim 24, wherein the data writer comprises a smart card contact and the data couplers comprise smart card data couplers, and wherein a selected one of said couplers controls a data output of said contact, and said one of said couplers is selectable via the external device.